



SLATER LOTT
New head baseball coach
...13

Chieftain



VOLUME 54, NUMBER 7

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AUGUST 4, 2025



Itawamba Community College President Dr. Jay Allen, center, cuts the ribbon to formally open the state-of-the-art Robotics lab at the Belden Center, May 8.

Ceremony opens state-of-the-art Robotics Lab

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College formally opened its state-of-the-art robotics lab at the Belden Center during a ribbon cutting ceremony, May 8.

"It is an exciting day for our college, our students, our faculty and our region as we officially unveil our new state-of-the-art Robotics Lab, a facility that not only represents the future of workforce training, but also our steadfast commitment to innovation, opportunity and excellence," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "The \$1.2 million renovation made possible through the support of our friends in the Mississippi Legislature reflects a true investment in the lives and futures of our

students and the communities we serve. At ICC, we don't just train for today's jobs, we prepare for tomorrow's careers. And this Robotics Lab is a shining example of that mission in action. As industry leaders consider locating in North Mississippi, this lab, and the facility as a whole, demonstrates that we are ready - with the talent, training and technology to meet their needs."

Dr. Doug Ferguson, ICC Robotics instructor, concurs. "This new Robotics Lab is a game-changer for our program. It gives our students the space, tools and technology to dive deeper into hands-on learning and real-world robotics. We're excited about the op-

portunities this opens up for preparing students for the careers shaping their future. We're thankful to everyone who helped make this happen."

Dean of Career Education Dylan Baldwin also expressed appreciation for those who were instrumental in the process. "This laboratory has changed Robotics Technology at Itawamba Community College. Although it has long been a focal point for tour groups of prospective students and industry leaders, Robotics has a new face, and subsequently, is more appealing to those who are investigating a career. Thank you isn't adequate for the build-out of this lab. It could be the catalyst that encourages both traditional and

adult learners to either start or reinvent their futures."

In addition to the lab, the 8,250 square foot buildout includes a classroom and breakroom and space for storage.

For students like Samira Brewer of Mooreville, "the facility is bright and inviting and offers more space than before."

ICC's Robotics program, Brewer said, "is the perfect mix of a trade program and a traditional degree pathway. We get hands-on training with the kind of devices that companies use out in the field." - **See Robotics Lab, page five.**



ICC graduates Analyse McMillen, left, and Sara Davis are participants in the SPICE opportunity this summer with the DoD.

'25 ICC grads selected for DoD internship

Staff Reports

Recent Itawamba Community College graduates Sara Davis of Smithville and Analyse McMillen of Pontotoc are having the opportunity of a lifetime as participants in the Summer Internship Consortium Experience in Indianapolis, Ind.

The paid 11-week internship with the Department of Defense for Research & Engineering (OUSD R&E) allows Davis and McMillen to get security clearance, DoD access training and exposure and is an opportunity to network with industry con-

tacts in technology. They will collaborate with industries to evaluate future technologies relating to space, land, water and air with several opportunities to travel to Washington, D.C.

The experience affords students an opportunity to utilize their STEM skills doing research in emerging technologies for the U.S. government as well as addresses the need from the federal government's recent release of a strategic plan for advancing STEM education and cultivating STEM talent. - **See DoD Summer Internship, page fourteen.**

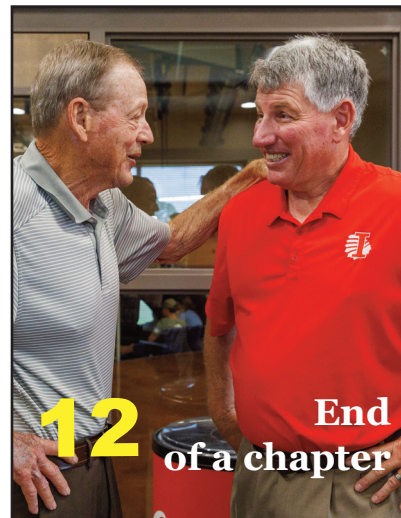
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"give back"



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VIEWPOINT
DUANE CROSS
Former Chieftain Sports Editor

Don't Borrow Tomorrow

Congrats, graduates - now go live fully in the moment.

I was 18 once.

It was the spring of 1985, and I had just graduated high school with a diploma in one hand and the wide-open world in the other.

Eventually, though, tomorrow showed up.

College came. Baseball ended. A job started. Then another. Then a mortgage. Kids. T-ball games. Braces. College tuition. Weddings. Now here I am - 58 years old - still learning, still figuring it out.

Here's the truth no one told me at graduation: You don't have to know right now what your forever is supposed to look like. You're not signing a contract with the universe. You're just stepping out into the first chapter of your adult life. And guess what? You're allowed to revise.

When I was 22, I thought I'd work in newspapers forever. By 32, I was still in sports, but surfing the World Wide Web. By 40, I was planning and editing, showing up only for big events and hating airports, taxis and expense reports. At 50, I realized "right" and "wrong" don't always look the way you expect. Sometimes "right" is simply what works right now.

The world will try to convince you that you need a detailed plan, a laser-focused goal, a career ladder mapped out to retirement. But life doesn't follow blueprints. It bobs and weaves and sometimes knocks the wind out of you - and then hands you a chance to pivot.

Some people discover their calling early and follow it through to the end. Others find it after detours, mistakes and leaps of faith. Some never hear a single calling, but live full and meaningful lives doing many things well. All of it counts. All of it matters.

Explore. Change your mind. Choose what brings you joy, not just what looks good on paper. Be curious. Be kind. Pay attention to what energizes you and what drains you. And when tomorrow shows up, meet it with open arms and a flexible heart.

So dream big. Chase the thing that makes your heart race. Don't be afraid to leap - but keep your feet under you. Ask questions. Call home. Laugh when you can. Cry when you need to. Be generous with your time and your patience - with others and with yourself.

Because here's what I know for sure: Tomorrow comes. It always does. But today - this day - is yours. Don't let it slip by while worrying about a version of the future that may never exist.

You'll change - again and again. What you want now may not be what you want five years from now. That's not failure. That's growth. Life doesn't come with a master blueprint. It comes with curiosity, courage and course corrections.

Above all, don't waste today worrying about tomorrow. Tomorrow is a moving target. But today - this moment - you're stepping into a brand new life. It's full of possibility, full of open roads, detours and surprises that you can't even imagine yet.

You don't have to figure it all out today. You're not supposed to. You've got this. The road ahead is wide open

So, to the Class of 2025: Take a breath. The pressure to know everything right now is a myth. You're not behind. You're not lost. You're just starting. - Duane Cross is a former Chieftain sports editor. He is the publisher and editor of the Moore County Observer. (reprinted with permission)

OPINION
POLL
FROM
THE
PAST

“What advice would you give a new freshman?”

”

“To take college and classes seriously and make good use of time.” - Johnny Westbrook, Smithville

“Be responsible! Don't skip classes just because you can because you'll be dropped.” - Emily Williams, Tupelo

“Don't wait until the last minute to do your work. Start on time.” - Jessica Cayson, Tupelo

“Don't procrastinate! Try to be involved with campus activities.” - Susan Shea, Corinth

“Start studying for tests several weeks before the date. Meet as many friends as possible.” - Troy Johnson, Tupelo

“College is what you make it.” - Andrew Barnes, Mooreville

“Stay focused and get to school early for a parking space.” - Lori Mears, Fulton

“Stay focused and work hard to succeed.” - Tangela Hamilton, Hamilton

“Get active and involved in school activities. Do not underestimate the difficulty of classes” - Bre Snipes, Fulton

“TCC is as good as you make it. Get involved in BSU, Wesley, Fashion Tribe, etc. There is something for everyone.” - Brittini Harmon, Amory

“Put God first and everything will fall into place.” - Bria Marshall, Louisville

“Never miss class and always do your work.” - Brandie Johnson, Houston

VIEWPOINT
ANGIE HERRING
Mental Health Coordinator

So you think you know ADHD?

Itawamba Community College has started its Bloom program (the Academy begins Aug. 18), and among the areas covered is ADHD.

It's likely that when most people hear the term ADHD, they think of a fidgety, wide-eyed person who is easily distracted, jumping from one thought to the next in no certain order and...oh, look...a squirrel! Right?

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a term that is tossed around loosely in our society to describe just such an individual. However, these behaviors barely scratch the surface of what is currently known about the disorder.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, fifth edition, describes ADHD as a developmental disorder that is characterized by impulsive or hyperactive behaviors and/or inattention that are present in an individual before the age of 12. Three types of ADHD can be understood by their behavioral designation: inattentive, impulsive/hyperactive or combined (both inattentive and impulsive/hyperactive).

However, Dr. Russell Barkley, a leading expert in the field of ADHD research and psychology, challenges us to look beyond the current stereotype. He says that the disorder should not be viewed simply through the lens of hyperactivity and impulsivity, but of self-regulation. It is often viewed as a display of hyperactive and impulsive behaviors without consideration that it is the lack of emotional regulation that drives the behaviors of hyperactivity, impulsivity and inattention. As a consequence, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder often occur alongside ADHD, and may even be misdiagnosed due to many shared features.

Just as we can see that a person with ADHD has difficult controlling their body movements externally, they have trouble managing their emotions internally. Therefore, this deficit in self-regulation affects a person's emotions, vocation, education and most troubling, their relationships. Dr. Barkley says, “Friends forgive you, your distractibility, your forgetfulness...and even your restlessness. They will not forgive your anger, your hostility, your forgetfulness...and even your restlessness. They will not forgive your anger, your hostility, the quickness with which you can emote...because it is offensive. It is socially costly. “Therefore, children with ADHD may be left out of social events and friend groups, while adults may have trouble holding longterm relationships. Social challenges may be due to frequently interrupting others, difficulty waiting their turn and even more extreme, “rejection sensitivity” Rejection sensitivity is an exaggerated sense of emotional rejection when compared to their actual circumstances.

Another note of interest is that Barkley's research shows that people with ADH neurodivergence have hundreds of thousands more nerve endings than those with a neurotypical brain. - See What is ADHD?, page ten.



Student Voices by Christy Sudduth
Summer Chieftain 2012

Chieftain 50

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Cal Brown

The Chieftain is available online only and is posted three times each semester.

Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law.

For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271, or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.



Seven earn ICC awards of distinction

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's "best of the best" were honored for their selection as recipients of the Faculty and Staff Awards of Distinction for 2024-25 during a ceremony just before the spring semester ended.

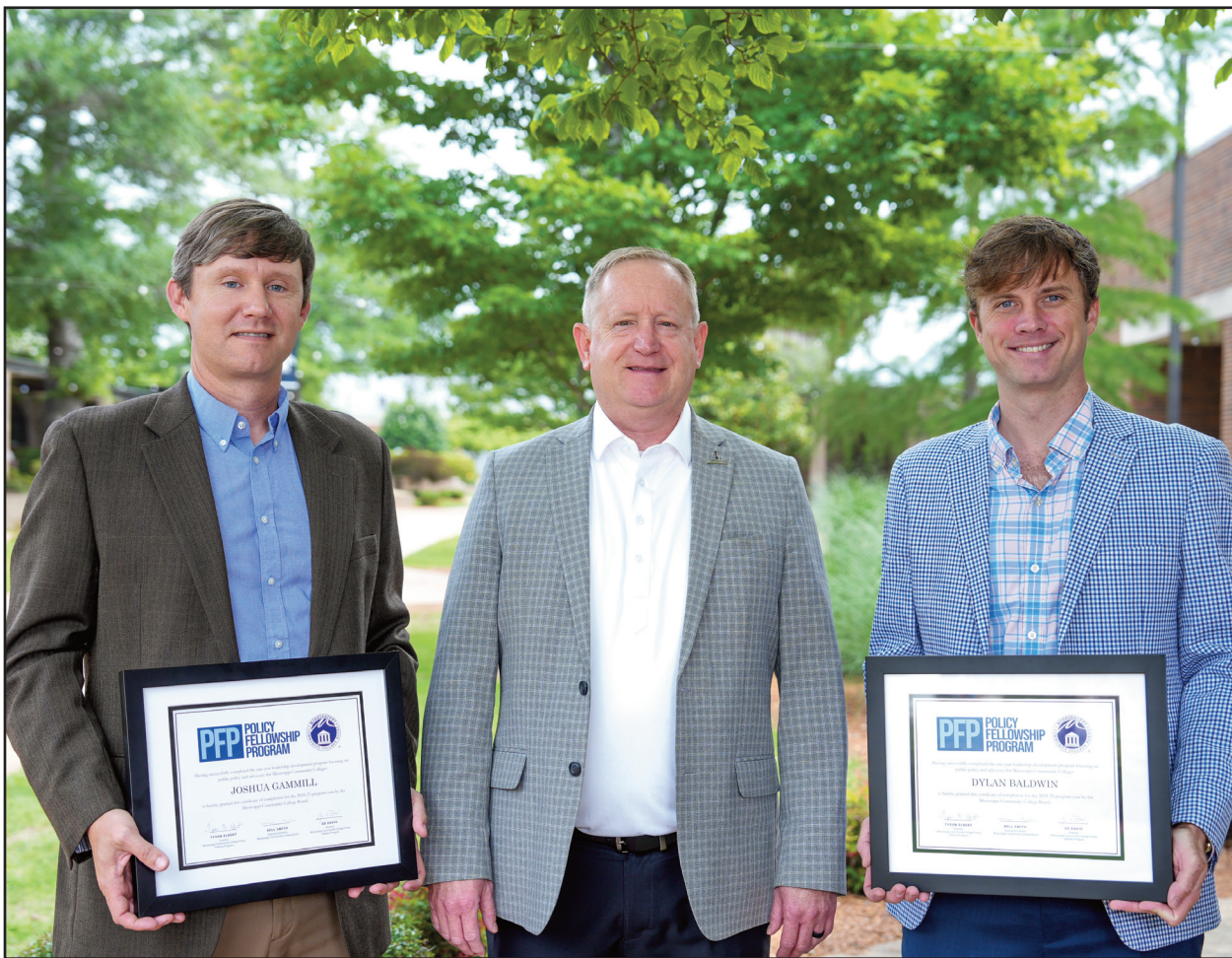
They include **Olga Weatherford** (administrative assistant to the dean of Academic Instruction) and **Mike West** (Transportation Services), both of Fulton, Support Staff of the Year; **Dylan Baldwin** (dean of Career Education) of Pontotoc and **Raphael Henry** (Video Operations coordinator) of Tupelo, Professional/Administrative Staff of the Year; **Beth Bowers** (clinical director for Respiratory Care Technology) of Oxford, **Debbie Roebuck** (director of EMT/Paramedic program) of Nettleton, Faculty Member of the Year; and **Heather McCormick** (Mathematics division chair) of Fulton, John and Beth Cleveland Endowed Excellence in Education Outstanding Faculty Member award.

Others honored were **Jessi Stevenson** of Fulton, Fine Arts instructor, William Winter Scholar; and **Megan Lewis Eidt** of Tupelo, Mississippi Humanities Teacher Award winner.

The annual event also included those who are retiring at the end of the 2024-25 academic year. They were **Cindy Layman** of Marietta, Computer Information Systems instructor; **Marilyn Pounders** of Saltillo, secretary for the Advising office; **Carrie Boykin** of Saltillo, Natural Science instructor; **Dr. Cass Patrick** of Tupelo, Fine Arts Division chair; and **Bowers**.



ICC President Dr. Jay Allen presents the John and Beth Cleveland Endowed Excellence in Education Outstanding Faculty award to Heather McCormick.



Itawamba Community College President Dr. Jay Allen, center, congratulates Josh Gammill, left, and Dylan Baldwin upon completion of the Mississippi Community College Policy Fellowship Program.

ICC's Baldwin, Gammill complete MCCFPF

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's Dylan Baldwin of Pontotoc, dean of Career Education, and Josh Gammill of Fulton, director of Continuing Education, have recently completed the prestigious Mississippi Community College Policy Fellowship Program.

Baldwin earned the associate's degree from ICC, the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and the master's degree from Mississippi State University. He joined the ICC faculty in 2013 as Collision Repair Technology instructor. His honors include 2023 Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy, Community College Representative for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development and secretary of the

Mississippi Career Technical Officers Association. Baldwin and his wife, Monica, are the parents of a 10-year-old daughter, Mia.

Gammill, who is director of Continuing Education, has been a member of the ICC family since 2015, previously serving as career navigator and pathway coordinator. He earned the bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and the master's degree from the University of Mississippi. Gammill's honors include graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA), graduate of the ICC Leadership Development Institute, successful completion of DDI Leadership Facilitator Training, Certified Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) and Certified Career Pathways Leadership (NCPN). He is a deacon of Bethel

Baptist Church. Gammill and his wife, Sara, are the parents of three children, Reed, Nora and Charlie.

The Mississippi Community College Policy Fellowship Program, which began in 2012, has more than 120 alumni. It is sponsored by the Mississippi Community College Board in partnership with Washington, D.C.-based Advocacy Build. The program focuses on leadership, networking, policy and advocacy. Two participants are nominated for the MCCFPF by each of the 15 public community college presidents. The year-long program culminated with a trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate specific educational changes and meet with Congressional delegations and members of the Association of Community College Trustees.

Mississippi Radiological Society Busby receives scholar's award

Staff Reports

Laken Busby of Weir, a 2025 graduate of Itawamba Community College, is the recipient of the 2025 Mississippi Radiological Society scholar's award for 2025.

At ICC, Busby was a member of the Beta Tau Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and earned the highest average in Radiologic Technology. She is a 2022 honor graduate of Choctaw County High School, where her activities included Beta Club, varsity cheer captain, yearbook editor and staff member. Her parents are Chris and Lorie Busby.

She plans to enter ICC's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program this fall and subsequently pursue a career to blend both of her degrees to help others.

The Mississippi Radiological Society is an affiliate of the American College



of Radiology. Its mission is to advance the field of radiology, enhance patient care and service to the medical community and explore the economics of radiology. It is committed to promoting ongoing education for radiologists and maintaining high medical and ethical standards in the practice of radiology.

Radiologic Technology is a two-year (five-semester) program at ICC. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists exam.

Radiologic Technologists perform diagnostic imaging procedures, such as X-ray examinations and both magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography scans.

They work in hospitals, clinics and physician's offices.

ICC...#Betterthanever



College CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2025

- Aug. 18** First day of class for traditional classes
- Aug. 19** Last day for students to self-register for traditional classes
- Aug. 20-22** Late registration available through Advising Center for traditional classes
- Aug. 25** First day of class for eLearning full-term and eLearning first eight-week classes
- Aug. 26** Last day to add eLearning first eight-week classes
- Aug. 29** Last day to add eLearning full-term classes
- Sept. 1** Labor Day Holiday for students and employees
- Oct. 1** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning first eight-week classes
- Oct. 6** Spring 2026 class schedule available

**For more information
and updates
on the fall schedule, go to
www.iccms.edu**



OTA graduates 'give back'

Recent graduates and members of ICC's Student Occupational Therapy Association class of 2025, donated proceeds from fundraising efforts to from top, KidSense in Pontotoc; Regional Rehabilitation Center and Peanut's Place. Representing the organization were Korbyn McCreless, Diana Reyes, Lindsey Mitchell and Marlee Hoing.



Itawamba Community College staff members who received CPRAM awards include front, from left, Donna Thomas, Maggie Caldwell, Morgan Henry, Natalie Ryals, Margaret Todd; back, Cayce Smith, Leah Caldwell, Caroline Mason, C.J. Adams and Cal Brown. - Photo furnished.

ICC staff wins 25 CPRAM awards

Staff Reports

Several Itawamba Community College staff members received a total of 25 awards from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi, which were presented during a conference in mid-May in Starkville.

They include

C.J. Adams - third place, Institutional Magazine for "Connection Spring 2024," second, Brochure, "ICC Recruiting Trifold;" first, Environmental Design/Exhibitions; third, Environmental Designs/Exhibitions, Football Locker Room Redesign; first, Viewbook/Admissions and Recruitment Piece, "2024 Orientation Book;" third, Student Life Photography, "Saving the Crown;" first, Digital Art/Photo Illustration, "Good and Wicked;" second, Wildcard Mixed Media, "Once Upon a Fashion Show;" second, Television Spots, "2024 ICC Super Bowl Commercial;" second, Digital Advertisements, "You Belong Here" billboard; second, Social Media Non-Sports Post, "Welcome Week Recap;" first place, Non-Sport Promo/Hype Video, "ICC 2023-24 Rewind;" second, Sports Promo/Hype Video, "ICC Women's Soccer Media Day;"

Cal Brown - second, Sports Promo/Hype Videos, "ICC Women's Soccer Media Day;"

Maggie Caldwell - first, Creative Partners, "Dinner & Demo;" second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase Series;"

Tyler Camp - first, Non-Sport Promo/Hype Video, "Bloom Program Introduction;"

Rena Chism - second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase Series;"

Josh Gammill - first, Creative Partners, "Dinner & Demo;" second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase;"

Adam Gore - third, Environmental Design/Exhibitions, Foot-

ball Locker Room Redesign; second, Sports New Story, "Indians Win Thriller Over East Mississippi, 36-24;" second, Sports Feature Story, "Carson Owens Introduced As New Head Softball Coach;" first, TV News Story, "ICC Tek2Go Student Camp 2024;" second, Radio Spots, "ICC Thanksgiving Registration Push;" third, Radio Spots, "ICC Christmas Registration Push;" third, Radio Programs/Podcasts for "The ICC Hour with Adam Gore;" second, Sports Promo/Hype Videos, "ICC Women's Soccer Media Day;"

Bryan Hawkins - first, TV News Story, "ICC Tek2Go Student Camp 2024;"

Morgan Henry - third, Institutional Magazine, "Connection Spring 2024;"

Raphael Henry - first, TV News Story, "ICC Tek2Go Student Camp 2024;" first, Non-Sport Promo/Hype Video, "Bloom Program Introduction;" second, Sports Promo/Hype Videos, "ICC Women's Soccer Media Day;"

Braiden Holcombe - second, Wildcard Mixed Media, "Once Upon A Fashion Show;"

Michael Holloway - second, Brochure, "ICC Recruiting Trifold;" first, Viewbook/Admissions and Recruitment Piece, "2024 Orientation Book;"

Stephanie Kitchens - second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase Series;"

Brianna Marino - second, Wildcard Mixed Media, "Once Upon A Fashion Show;"

Caroline Mason - second, Social Media Non-Sports Post, "Welcome Week Recap;" first, Creative Partners, "Dinner & Demo;" second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase Series;" first, Creative Partners, "Dinner & Demo;" second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase Series;"

Allie Mitchell - second, Digi-

tal Advertisements, "You Belong Here Billboard;"

Natalie Ryals - first, Digital Art/Photo Illustration, "Good and Wicked;" second, Sports Photograph, "Triple Time Celebration;" second, Wildcard Mixed Media, "Once Upon a Fashion Show;" second, Social Media Non-Sports Post, "Welcome Week Recap;" recipient of the CPRAM two-year college scholarship for 2025-26;

Christy Scheuer - first, Creative Partners, "Dinner & Demo;"

Cayce Smith - second, Sports Promo/Hype Videos, "ICC Women's Soccer Media Day;"

Donna Thomas - third, Institutional Magazine, Connection Spring 2024; second, Brochure, "ICC Recruiting Trifold;" third, News Story, "Metallica Scholars and ICC Celebrate April as National Welding Month;" second, Feature Story, "ICC + TPSD Partnership = Middle College Success;" second, Sports News Story, "Indians Win Thriller Over East Mississippi, 36-24;" second, Sports Feature Story, "Carson Owens Introduced as New Head Softball Coach;" first, Viewbook/Admissions and Recruitment Piece, "2024 Orientation Book;" first, Creative Partners, "Dinner & Demo;" second, Creative Partners, "Small Business Showcase Series;" and reelected treasurer of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi for 2025-26;

Ally Thompson - second, Wildcard Mixed Media, "Once Upon A Fashion Show;"

Taylor Tutor - second, Wildcard Mixed Media, "Once Upon A Fashion Show;" and

Michael Upton - third, Institutional Magazine, "Connection Spring 2024;"

The awards covered work produced during 2024. Both two-year and four-year colleges received awards in separate categories.

Have a great fall semester!



Meeting Room

CLUB NEWS & CALENDAR

PROFESSIONAL/SCHOLARLY

Alpha Delta Nu	alphadeltanu@iccms.edu
Educators Rising	educatorsrising@iccms.edu
Humanities Club	humanitiesclub@iccms.edu
ICC Art Club	artclub@iccms.edu
ICC Honors College	honors@iccms.edu
Legal Studies	legalstudies@iccms.edu
Men of Excellence	menofexcellence@iccms.edu
MOSA	mosa@iccms.edu
PEAK Club	peak@iccms.edu
Phi Theta Kappa	PTKFulton@iccms.edu
	PTKTupelo@iccms.edu
Sigma Kappa Delta	SKD@iccms.edu
Skills USA	skillsusa@iccms.edu
STEM Club	stemclub@iccms.edu
SOTA (Occupational Ther.)	sota@iccms.edu
The Business Council	council@iccms.edu
The Global Experience	travel@iccms.edu
Women of Excellence	womenofexcellence@iccms.edu

COLLEGE-BASED

Archery Club	archery@iccms.edu
Bass Club	bassclub@iccms.edu
Chieftain (Newspaper)	chieftain@iccms.edu
Disc Golf Club	discgolf@iccms.edu
Diversity Club	diversityclub@iccms.edu
eSports Club	esports@iccms.edu
Fashion Tribe	fashiontribe@iccms.edu
Indian Delegation	delegate@iccms.edu
Mirror (Yearbook)	mirror@iccms.edu
Orientation Leaders	orientation@iccms.edu
Student Activities Board	SAB@iccms.edu
Student Government Assn.	SGAFulton@iccms.edu
	SGATupelo@iccms.edu

FINE ARTS PERFORMING

All-American Band	band@iccms.edu
CenterStage	centerstage@iccms.edu
Choir and Chamber Singers	choir@iccms.edu
Color Guard	colorguard@iccms.edu
Concert Ensembles	band@iccms.edu
Film Club	filmclub@iccms.edu
Indianettes	indianettes@iccms.edu
Jazz Ensemble	jazz@iccms.edu
Pom Squad	pomsquad@iccms.edu
Steel Drum Band	band@iccms.edu
Theatre Productions	theatre@iccms.edu
Woodwind Ensembles	woodwinds@iccms.edu

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist Student Union	bsu@iccms.edu
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	FCA@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	NCF@iccms.edu
Wesley Foundation	wesley@iccms.edu

**For more information
on ICC clubs
and organizations,**



Members of Itawamba Community College's Construction Management program who participated in the special FORGE signing ceremony, May 16, making the transition into the next phase of their professional journeys, whether it be entering the workforce or transferring to a university, include from left, Nathan Elrod, Brad Acosta, Gabrielle Pearce, Michael Tharp, Luis Rojas, Jake Butler, Landon Morgan, Parker Brown, Emery Tedder, Camrin White, Wyatt Anderson, Davis Phillips, Austin Bryant, Jaden Willis, Jonathan May, Cole Stephens and Peyton Wofford.

FORGE celebrates ICC Construction Management grads

Staff Reports

Eighteen students from Itawamba Community College's Construction Management program were honored during a special signing ceremony, May 16, making their transition into the next phase of their professional journeys. Some students are entering the workforce with full-time employment while others are continuing their education at Mississippi State University or the University of Southern Mississippi.

The event at ICC's Fulton Campus recognized the students' achievements and future plans in front of family members, instructors, industry partners and representatives from FORGE, a nonprofit organization promoting skilled trades and career readiness across Mis-

issippi. The ceremony also served as a milestone moment for the newly-launched FORGE Northeast Mississippi Chapter, which is working to strengthen regional workforce pipelines in collaboration with schools, colleges and employers.

"This level of preparation and professionalism in ICC's program is evident in each of these students," said Tommy Collins, director of sales at Murphree Paving and a member of the FORGE Northeast Mississippi Executive Board. "Events like this signing ceremony are essential in elevating the trades and recognizing students who are ready to make an impact in the industry and beyond."

Thanks to the guidance and mentorship of Scott Emison, students in ICC's Construction

Management Technology program are well-prepared for the next steps in their career journeys. His collaboration with FORGE continues to strengthen career pathways across Northeast Mississippi.

"The future of construction is brighter because of programs like ICC's and instructors like Scott Emison," said Melinda Lowe, executive director of FORGE. "These students are stepping into the next chapter with confidence, and we're proud to be part of recognizing that achievement."

The FORGE Northeast Mississippi Chapter looks forward to continuing its partnership with ICC and local employers to expand opportunities and highlight the value of careers in construction."

Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy Stevenson, Harris earn certificates

Staff Reports

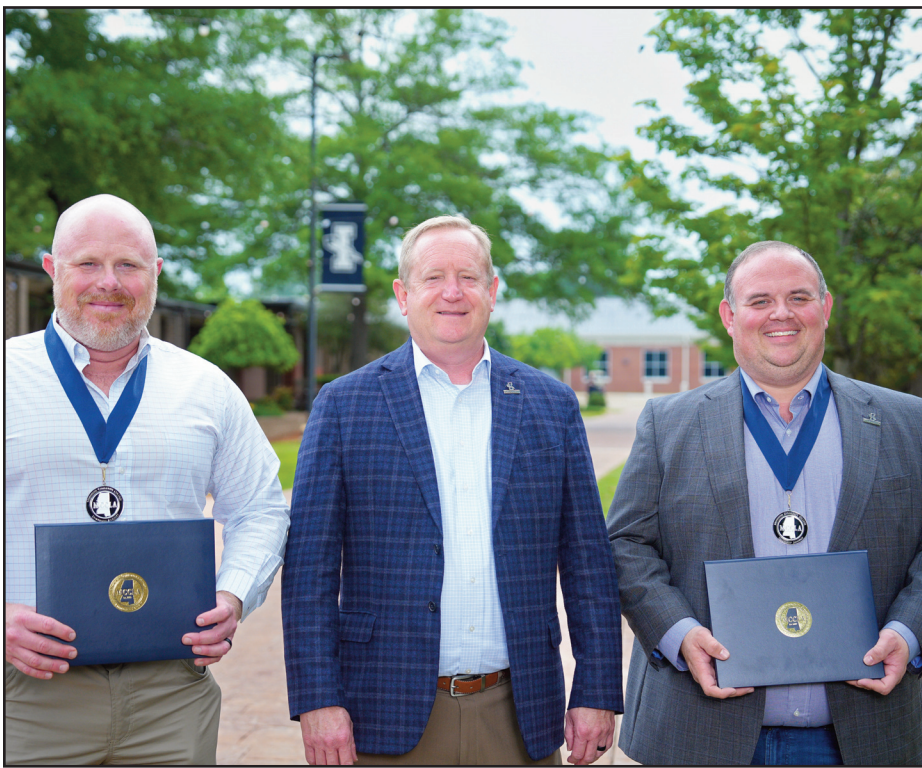
Itawamba Community College's Chris Stevenson of Fulton and John Wayne Harris of Shannon have recently completed the 2024-25 Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

A member of the ICC family since 2010, Stevenson, who is the dean of Academic Instruction, previously served as American History instructor and chair of the Social Science Division. He earned the associate's degree from ICC, bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and the master's degree from the University of Mississippi. His honors include William Winter Scholar (2014) and John and Beth Cleveland Instructor of the Year (2018). Stevenson is a member of the Mississippi Professional Educators. He and his wife, Jessi, have two children, Rourke and Riley. They

attend the Orchard in Fulton.

Harris, who is the director of Physical Plant Operations, joined the ICC family in 2008. His previous positions include sound technician, maintenance technician/energy manager and director of projects and energy management systems. He earned the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree from Everglades University. Harris's honors are Eagle Scout, Siemens Building Technologies - Master Operator (2012), ICC Support Staff Employee of the Year (2020) and ICC Leadership Development Institute (2022-23). He is a member of Brewer Baptist Church in Shannon.

The Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy was developed in the spring of 2009 to address the projected need for upper-level leaders in the Mississippi community college system.



ICC President Dr. Jay Allen, center, congratulates Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy completers Chris Stevenson, left, and John Wayne Harris.

getinvolved@iccms.edu



Want To Know More?

FULTON CAMPUS

Information on

Academic Honors.....	Admissions
Activities Calendar	V.P. of Student Services
Admissions/Records	Admissions
Advanced Placement	V.P. of Instructional Services
Athletics	Athletic Director
Band	Band Director
Books/Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning	Adviser/Advising Center
Car Registration Decals	Campus Police
Change of Adviser/Major	Advising Center
Change in Curriculum	Adviser/Student Affairs
Counseling	Student Affairs
Counseling (Personal)	V.P. of Student Services
Course Placement	V.P. of Instructional Services
Evaluation of Credits	Admissions
Examinations	Instructor
Faculty Office Hours	Instructor
Graduation Req.	Admissions
Housing	Director of Housing
I.D. Cards	Library
Intramurals/Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Library	Director of Libraries
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Part-Time Jobs	Student Affairs
Placement Testing	Student Affairs
Publicity/Publications	Community Relations
Registration	Admissions
Schedule Changes	Adviser
Schedule Planning	Adviser
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Aid/Work Study	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Organizations	Sponsors
Summer School	Coor. of Student Activities
	V.P. of Instructional Services
Testing (Career)	Career Center
Transcripts	Admissions
Tuition, Fees, Deferrals	Business office
Use of Campus Property	V.P. of Student Services
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

TUPELO CAMPUS

Admissions/Records	Student Affairs
Advanced Placement Credit	VP, Instructional Services
Books and Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning	Adviser/Career Center
Car Registration/Decals	Campus Police
Counseling	Student Affairs
Evaluation of Credits	Admissions
I.D. Cards	Library
Job Placement	Career Center
Library	Library
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Registration/Early-Reg	Student Affairs
Schedule Planning	Student Affairs
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Aid	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Transcripts	Student Affairs
Tuition and Fees	Business office
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

BELDEN CENTER

Adult Ed./High School Equivalency	Audra Perry
Career Education	Dylan Baldwin
Continuing Education	Josh Gammill
WIOA	Brad Gates
Workforce	Barry Emison

**Contact information available
at www.iccms.edu
by clicking on the area of interest
or by searching
the college directory
at the same location.**

Contact



Itawamba Community College Associate Degree Nursing students Chelsie Canerdy, Bailey Shaw and Randa Payne enjoy a treat during a “graduation celebration” at the Tupelo Campus.

In case you missed it... ICC nurses celebrate their profession, calling

Staff Reports

When the pages of the calendar turned to May, a special celebration began for nurses across the nation.

Every year, from May 6-12, those in the profession are recognized for their service and dedication to caring for others and improving the health of patients through National Nurses Week.

But as special as nurses are and most deserving of a celebration, the week is just a small part of the larger National Nurses Month, which will be observed through May 31.

“Students who are enrolled in Itawamba Community College’s Associate Degree Nursing program prepare to take the NCLEX-RN and subsequently to become Registered Nurses, who work in collaboration with physicians and other members of a healthcare team,” said Tonya Vaughn, dean of Health Science Instruction. “They fill numerous roles. They work in hospitals, physicians’ offices, home healthcare services and nursing care facilities, correctional facilities, schools or serve in the military. Week-long or even month-long celebrations are great, but we know first-hand that sometimes it is an underappreciated job. I hope that our students know how much they are valued and will transfer that attitude when they enter the world of work. Many of our students have stories to tell about how their pathway led them

to ICC.”

Among them is 51-year-old Michelle Crawson of Pontotoc. She’s been married for almost 29 years and has three children, two of whom are married, and one who will be a high school senior next year. “My daughter was in the ADN program with ICC and graduated in 2020, and my son is in medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. I’ve had some really great jobs in my life where I excelled, helping many individuals in different ways, but I wanted something more meaningful, so I decided to go back to school after many prayers and conversations with my family. Crawson worked 50+ hours per week at a full-time job while she completed her prerequisites for the program prior to acceptance.

Memory Willingham of Saltillo, who is a more traditional age college student and member of the ICC Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2025, previously earned the bachelor’s degree in natural science from Christian Brothers University, summa cum laude, with a 3.89 grade point average. She was a student-athlete at CBU, where she played softball and was a Buc scholar gold tier for four years. And when she doesn’t have anything else to do, she’s busy planning a wedding for Nov. 8.

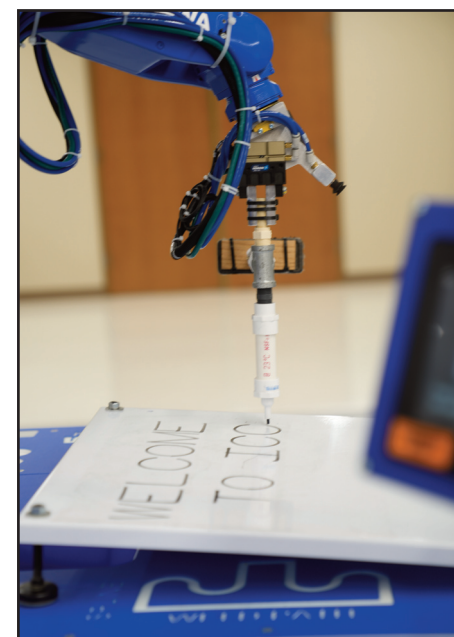
“I chose nursing school because it has always been a passion of mine,” Willingham noted. “I have always loved to serve and help

others. One thing that I love about the nursing field is that I get to be someone’s light of hope on their darkest days. Being there for people who are going through one of the hardest times of their lives is something that has always motivated me to continue to pursue this career. ICC’s ADN program has helped me reach my goal, and I have enjoyed every minute. The staff never fails to care, push and team me everything I need to know and be successful in my career path.”

Fast forward to this month (May), Willingham who is the recent recipient of the Larry Loden ADN Hall of Fame award, will be celebrating her graduation from ICC with a 4.0 GPA as well as National Nurses Month. Very soon, she will work as a Registered Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Baptist Memorial Hospital. “I’m so excited to start my career,” Willingham said, “and I am forever grateful for all of the opportunities ICC’s ADN program has given me!”

As for ICC, it’s a great time to celebrate our AD Nursing students. “We can’t wait for the Class of 2025 to cross that stage this month and take the next step to a career in the field they love,” Vaughn said. “We hope that they will know that we love them and thank them in advance for choosing such an impactful career, not just during nurses’ week or month, but every single day!”

Robotics lab From page one



“We don’t just watch PowerPoints and do bookwork. We get to install the devices, power them up and program them ourselves. You can’t put a price tag on the knowledge we gain through this program, but for this to come out of a community college (meaning the cost of attendance) is amazing!”

All of the robots are sectioned out, and tour groups can watch the students program them in real time. “The new lab lets students take pride in knowing the school believes enough in the robotics program to invest in such a massive upgrade,”

Brewer said.

Because of her participation in an annual ICC-sponsored job fair, Brewer has secured an internship with Southern Automation and Controls. “I had a very well-paying job before I went back to school, but I wanted a career that I enjoyed. So, I quit, moved into a much smaller place, and now I work two jobs to pay my tuition and bills. I knew it wouldn’t be easy going back to college, but I don’t have a single regret. ICC has already done so much to help me prepare for my future, and

I’m only halfway through the program.

So, with the formal opening of the “new and improved” Robotics Laboratory at the Belden Center, which will provide an exceptional learning space, Itawamba Community College students in that area, both now as Samira Brewer, and in the future, will benefit not only from the skills that they learned, but also from the connections that they have made, ensuring a better future, not only for themselves, but also their families, their communities and beyond.

Shop the ICC Bookstore TODAY!

Fulton, Tupelo, Online



Tangenia Nunley of New Albany receives her ICC diploma at the same time as her 15-year-old son, Lathan Jon Austin Nunley, during commencement ceremonies on May 16 at the Fulton Campus.

ICC graduates receive diplomas, certificates during May 16 ceremonies

Staff Reports

Approximately 1,000 Itawamba Community College graduates crossed the stage at the Davis Event Center on the Fulton Campus, May 16, during three commencement ceremonies and were rewarded with Associate of Arts or Associate of Applied Science degrees or certificates.

Among them included a 15-year-old and his mother, a native of South Africa, a 32-year-old high school equivalency graduate, an amputee and one who started te pursuit of her college diploma more than 20 years ago.

LATHAN NUNLEY

Lathan Jon Austin Nunley of New Albany said he “nervously but excitedly stepped into the world of college. Today I’m proud to say I’m graduating with my first degree alongside my mother, who has supported me every step of the way.” His educational journey began at home where his mother homeschooled him ‘from birth to eighth grade.’ “With her guidance and the encouragement of those around me, I was taught to believe that anything is possible. That mindset pushed me to graduate high school at just 13 years old through Penn Foster.” His ultimate goal is to work in the tech field. “I face an important decision within the next few weeks, choosing between two colleges, one focused on computer technology and the other on AI and cybersecurity,” Nunley continued. “Whichever path I take, I know I’ll reach my goals with the unwavering support of my family, friends and instructors who’ve inspired me thor- ougher this journey.”

TANGENIA NUNLEY

Among his support system is fellow graduate and mom, Tangenia Nunley, who in 2004 graduated with honors from ICC with a degree in Computer Networking and began a successful career in the tech field. She said that she eventually stepped away to become a stay-at-home mom

and homeschooled her son. “Even during those years, I remained committed to my personal and professional growth,” she explained. In 2012, she returned to ICC to earn a certificate in Health Information Technology to help further expand her skill set. Nine years later, she pivoted into real estate, earning licenses in Mississippi and Tennessee. “Truth be told, it was my 13-year-old son who inspired the next chapter of my journey. He encouraged me to go back to college with him, and I am graduating as an honor student and proud member of Phi Theta Kappa, a recognition of my dedication and hard work.” She will be transferring to the University of Memphis this fall to continue her journey toward a bachelors degree in computer science. “Today’s graduation represents more than just a personal achievement - it’s a family celebration. I’m incredibly proud to walk across the stage alongside my son. This moment symbolizes years of dedication, growth and the enduring belief that no dream is too big, no journey too long, and it’s never too late to pursue what sets your heart on fire.”

In his remarks during all three ceremonies, ICC President Dr. Jay Allen emphasized the integral role that ICC has played, not only in the lives of the graduates, but in the communities it serves. “Community colleges, such as ICC. are on the front line of helping people realize their potential: academically, personally and professionally. And, when we succeed and do our best in connecting with students, we help them to recognize and embrace the potential within themselves.”

JAMES ROSS

The journey of South African native James Ross led him through China and subsequently to Tupelo and ICC. When he enrolled, Ross said that the instructors made him feel at home in both Tupelo and at the College. “I got to hear the anecdotal version from American history

from Dr. (Bruce) Ingram and all about biscuits and chocolate gravy, and the fear of public speaking dissipate with Mrs. (Allyson) Cummings’ stories of Southern life. I was encouraged by ICC instructors to share my writing of poetry events, become a Phi Theta Kappa officer, take part in setting up ICC events and write and act in a short film. I was able to embrace my South African experiences and also learn about Tupelo and America, and I’ve made forever friends.”

CLIFTON PIERCE

The road to a college diploma hasn’t been easy for 32-year-old Clifton Pierce of Nettleton, who was diagnosed with development delayed ADHD. At the age of 25, he started working toward his high school equivalency diploma, and two years later, he earned the credential, but because of the pandemic, walking across the stage was delayed. In 2021, Pierce had the opportunity to receive not only his diploma, but also recognition as Student of the Year from his GED instructors. The fall of that same year, he became a college student at the Tupelo Campus. “At first it was a rocky start, but later on i was more comfortable with learning and working hard passing my courses leading me to today, when I will become an ICC graduate again with a major in communications.”

RODNEY HARDY

“This has been by far one of the most challenging, yet best experiences of my life,” said Rodney Hardy of Gordo, Ala., whose left leg was crushed during an accident one afternoon during a snow and ice storm when he left nursing school at the Tupelo Campus. In 2014, Hardy was in the hospital for three months, doesn’t remember he was on a vent and lost his leg. “I also lost a great job, my nursing career, went through every stage of the grieving process, battled depression and suffered from PTSD. His therapy at UAB included both Occupational Therapy and

Physical Therapy. “My OT was a lady who was no more than 5’2”, 130 pounds, but she pushed a 5’8”, 405-pound amputee to his limits and showed me that ‘yes you can go back to school and although your new life will be in OT terminology ‘adaptive,’ it can be functional,” Hardy said. Fast forward a few years, life and job connections led him to applying and interviewing for a spot in ICC’s OTA class. Hardy has had to drive three hours round trip to school for 18 months. “My instructors took nothing less than maximum effort and pushed not only me, but the entire class to work with a spirit of excellence. I’m not the fastest, the smartest or the youngest, but my prayer and my goal is to be the most efficient in my craft as a future OTA, and this program has thoroughly prepared me. ICC’s OTA program is more than just a program. This has been a life-changing journey and experience.”

CARLEE MORGAN

Then, there’s Carlee Morgan of Tupelo, a devoted wife and mother of two daughters, who will celebrate her 40th birthday in July. “What better way to mark this milestone than by finishing what I started over 20 years ago,” she said. As the office manager and homeowner services coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, Morgan found unexpected inspiration from a Habitat homeowner who was earning her degree while raising her children as a single mom. “That moment sparked a determination,” she said, “one that brought her to this day - walking across the stage for the very first time.” Morgan said that she credits her friends and family for their unwavering encouragement and belief in her, but this is just the beginning of her educational journey. She’s continuing on to Ole Miss to pursue her bachelor’s degree. “It’s never too late (to earn a degree), and you’re never too old.” - **See ICC commencement, page ten.**

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

August 17

*Welcome Week Movie Night
6 p.m.*

August 28

*Red Zone Tailgate
The Grove at Butch Lambert Stadium
ICC vs. Hinds - 7 p.m.*

September 18

*All-American Heroes Night
honoring Military, First Responders and
Healthcare Professionals
ICC vs. East Mississippi*

October 9

*Homecoming
ICC vs. Coahoma*

October 23

ICC vs. Northeast

For more information
www.iccms.edu
Activities Calendar

Pathways programs begin soon

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College has scheduled several pathways classes to begin in August at the Belden Center (3200 Adams Farm Rd.).

They include Food Management Certification, Mondays through Fridays, Aug. 8-Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Google IT Support Certification, Aug. 11-Dec. 4 (online); Certified Nursing Assistant (Mondays and Wednesdays), Aug. 11-Oct. 22, 5-9 p.m.; Medical Assistant, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Aug. 11-Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m.; Business Office Specialist, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Aug. 12-Dec. 4, 5-9 p.m.; Pharmacy Technician, Tuesdays, Aug. 12-Dec. 2, 6-9 p.m.; Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Tuesdays and Thursdays, Aug. 13-Dec. 4, 5-10 p.m.; and Phlebotomy Technician, Thursdays, Aug. 14, 6-9 p.m.

Highlights of Food Management Certification include both ServSafe® Food Manager and Alcohol Certification, menu planning/preparation, assistance/participation in execution of catered events, resume/interview skills and both front-and back-of-the-house operations.

The Google IT Support Certification program is designed to prepare learners for entry-level positions in IT support. It is fully online and is offered by ICC in collaboration with Google. Topics covered include troubleshooting, customer service, networking, operating systems, systems administration and security.

Certified Nursing Assistant prepares individuals to take the certification exam. Upon successful completion of the program and the exam, nursing assistants may find employment with nursing homes, medical centers, home health-care providers and clinics.

Medical Assistants are often the first and last persons with whom a patient interacts, making a lasting impression on their experience. Among their duties include taking vital signs, assisting providers with exams and procedures, administering injections or medications, performing various essential laboratory procedures, checking patients in and out, answering phones and questions and updating and maintaining electronic health records.

The Business Office Specialist program is designed for students to develop basic office, communication and computer technology skills. -
See Pathways, page eleven.

A very busy summer



Itawamba Community College doesn't close its doors in the summer. In fact, it's busier than ever. It's business and busyness as usual. Among the activities have included a Mississippi Highway Patrol C.O.R.E. camp, band camp, Orientation Leaders experiences and an Indian Delegation retreat.





FYI

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

JUST A REMINDER... Review lockdown procedures

ICC's faculty, staff and students are urged to re-view campus lockdown procedures.

"The procedures are meant to be very simple because at the point of a lockdown, the major concern is the safety of all of the individuals in the campus community," said Dr. Brad Boggs, vice president of student services.

Notifications will be communicated via ICC ALERT, email and the Emergency Information Web page.

Upon notification of campus lockdown, everyone must react immediately.

The procedures include

- 1) Lock all doors and windows.
- 2) Close all blinds.
- 3) Turn off lights.
- 4) Use room furnishings to barricade doors and as protection.
- 5) Everyone should sit on the floor, away from doors and windows.
- 6) Make no noise.
- 7) Remain in lockdown until it is cleared with a notice via ICC ALERT or the police/administrator gives te ALL CLEAR code.

In addition, these are procedures in the event of severe weather conditions or evacuation.

Individuals should check ICC's website, www.iccms.edu, for information. It's located under Campus Safety on the home page.



Recent graduates of ICC's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program include, from left, Stephanie Watts, Madison Gregg, Zoe Nastasi, Emily Lopez, Karly Linley, Sarah Perkins, Annslee Rhea and Hadley Jackson.

DMS students graduate during ceremony

Staff Reports

The members of Itawamba Community College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography class of 2025 received their diplomas during a special ceremony, July 30, at the Academic and Student Center at the Tupelo Campus.

They include Emily Lopez of Belden, Stephanie Watts of Brandon, Karly Linley of Houlka, Hadley Jackson of Kos-

suth, Madison Gregg of Maben, Sarah Perkins of Oxford, Zoe Nastasi of Picayune and Annslee Rhea of Pontotoc.

Itawamba Community College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a one-year (three-semester) program. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to take the American Registry of

Diagnostic Medical Sonography examinations, including Principles and Instrumentation to become a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer in Abdominal and Obstetrics/Gynecology. Sonographers work in hospitals, clinics, physicians offices, women's health centers and pediatric care centers.

ICC selects drum majors, color guard, Indianettes

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College has selected its 2025-26 Drum Majors, Color Guard and Indianette Dancers on the basis of recent auditions.

They include

Drum Majors - Shaylee Weeks of **Amory** (head), Peighton Snider of **Blue Springs**, Isaac Jones of **Starkville** and Caleb Wood of **Tupelo**.

Indianette Dancers - Anne Austin of **Baldwyn**; LaAsja Hughes of **Caledonia**; Malayia Kelly of **Calhoun City**; Jacey

Haynes of **Columbus**; Katlyn Strickland (captain), Shelby Sullivan, both of **Greenwood Springs**; J'Kyla Jones, Madison Nevins, both of **Hamilton**; Cara Scaling of **Nesbit**; Katelin Lackey (captain), Josie Warren, both of **Pontotoc**; Mikah Beth Lesley, Mia Seymore, both of **Smithville**; and Jenna Davis, Amya Pegues, Rylie Williams, all of **Tupelo**.

Color Guard - Elizabeth Hatcher of **Aberdeen**; Sarah Johnson of **Ackerman**; Cloey Tate of **Amory**; Sanasia Vance

of **Calhoun City**; Sara Beth Savell (captain) of **Carthage**; Alyssa Fuller of **Eupora**; Trinity Derrick of **Guntown**; Cesar Vazquez of **Houston**; Alivia Andrews of **Nettleton**; Madison Brown, Claire Davis (captain), Ladaejah Green, Lora Morgan, all of **Oxford**; Sara Grace Jones of **Pontotoc**; Daniella Estoque of **Saltillo**; Kacy Rafnson of **Southaven**; Emily Collum of **Stewart**; Aubrey Holcomb of **Thaxton**; Brianna Bland, Mariana Meza and Braylee Mosley, all of **Tupelo**.

ICC's Coleman receives Bower-DSU Transfer Scholarship

Staff Reports

Jasmier Coleman of Pontotoc, a 2025 Itawamba Community College graduate has received the Bower-Delta State University Transfer Nursing Scholarship of \$4,000 from the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. Students studying to become nurse in Mississippi and planning to transfer to Delta State University are eligible to receive the scholarship.

This initiative focuses on strengthening Mississippi's healthcare workforce to ensure healthier communities for generations to come. "The Phi Theta Foundation is a dynamic partner in our efforts to improve the health of Mississippians," said Rebecca Cockrell, program director at the Bower Foundation. "Their strategic initiatives help identify students who demonstrate characteristics necessary to succeed in Delta State University's nursing program. "This collaboration maximizes the Bower Foundation's funding to impact the education and employment of nurses in Missis-



Jasmier Coleman

sippi."

Coleman is among three students who have been named Bower Scholars. Each will receive a \$4,000 scholarship, renewable up to five semesters. "The Bower-Delta State University Transfer Nursing Scholarship is a vital step toward growing Mississippi's nursing workforce," Amanda Karpinski-Gorman, interim director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation said. "By supporting Phi Theta Kappa members on their path to a BSN at Delta State, this scholarship helps ensure our commu-

nities have access to skilled, compassionate care for generations to come."

The scholarship provided in partnership with the Bower Foundation, Delta State University and Phi Theta Kappa Foundation will help students cover the costs of tuition, fees and other educational expenses associated with completing their nursing program.

At ICC, Coleman was an Indian Delegate, Orientation Leader, vice president for both the Student Government Association and Women of Excellence and member of the Fashion Tribe, Phi Theta Kappa and Honors College.

Her honors included Homecoming Freshman Maid (2023) and Homecoming Queen (2024). Coleman is a graduate of Pontotoc High School.

Her other activities include volunteer at churches and nursing homes, tutoring and Trading Post.

She is the daughter of Pon-desha Moore.



Recent graduates of ICC's Surgical Technology program include seated, from left, Jasmyn Sheffield, Lakyn Donaldson, Jessica Dancy, Christopher Underwood; middle, Megan Haire, Destinee Bafford, Katie May, Allyson Smith; back, Jessica Partlow, Claire Carter, Keegan Smith, Landon Russo, Katelyn Haycraft and Jada Glasgow.

Surgical Tech grads receive degrees

Staff Reports

Several area residents from ICC's Surgical Technology program received their degrees, July 11, at the Health Science Education Center at the Tupelo Campus.

They include Katie May of Booneville; Claire Carter of Bruce; jada Glasgow of Caledonia; Jasmyn Sheffield, Christopher Underwood, both of Fulton; Jessica Dancy, katelyn Haycraft, both of Guntown; Megan Haire of Houlka; Allyson Smith of Houston; Lakyn Donaldson of Nettleton; Destinee Bafford of Prairie; Keegan Smith of Ripley; Charles Landon Russo of Saltillo; and Jessica Partlow of Tupelo.

ICC's Surgical Technology program courses equal one year (three semesters). The goal is to prepare entry-level Surgical Technologists who are competent in the cognitive, psychomotor and affective learning domains to enter the profession. Surgical Technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings.

For more information on Itawamba Community College's health programs, email healthsciences@iccms.edu.



Participants in a recent American Sign Language class at the ICC Belden Center include Harvey Galloway of Pontotoc, left, and Shalanda Hudson of Tupelo.



Itawamba Community College is an open admission, comprehensive, publicly supported two-year institution primarily serving Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties, while also being responsive to the instructional and economic development needs of the region.

Itawamba Community College fulfills its mission through 1) College-parallel, technical and career programs to prepare students to transfer or enter the workforce; 2) Continuing education and workforce pathways for individuals striving for professional growth or personal enrichment; 3) Strategic partnerships to provide student opportunities, meet business and industry needs and promote economic development; 4) Adult education programs committed to increasing the literacy level of the adult population, providing self-improvement opportunities, workforce readiness and/or high school equivalency; 5) Resources, including financial, physical and technological to advance educational purpose as well as traditional and online instructional services, student support services and business management; 6) Recruitment and employment of qualified personnel as well as provide ongoing opportunities for leadership growth and success in educational, career and personal goals.

Candidates for admission to academic and career education programs may be admitted by diploma - students are required to present an official transcript from a high school accredited by the appropriate state or regional accreditation association; by completing the appropriate number of Carnegie units; by successfully completing an acceptable high school equivalency test - students are required to have an official copy of the high school equivalency transcript mailed to the Director of Admissions; by advanced standing (college transfer students). Students graduating without a regular diploma (Occupational Diploma or Special Education Diploma) must successfully complete an acceptable high school equivalency test or qualify under a Mississippi Ability to Benefit State Process in order to be eligible for admission to Itawamba Community College. Some career education programs may have selective criteria for admission.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271 or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.

In compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Itawamba Community College makes available its curricular and extracurricular programs and its facilities to every qualified person regardless of race, sex, color, creed, national origin or disability.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Community Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.670.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

www.iccms.edu
662.862.8000

ICC commencement From page eight

The Nunleys, Ross, Pierce, Hardy and Morgan are only six of the graduates who crossed the stage at the Davis Event Center to receive their diplomas from President Allen. So, there are still approximately 994 individual stories to tell about those who participated in the May 16 ceremonies. But, as Allen said, "It is indeed a special occasion as I celebrate with each of you! I can't wait to reconnect with every gradate who has crossed this stage today, to continue to share their stories."

Associate Degree Nursing graduates, who were among those who participated in the 5 p.m. ceremony, received their pins at a special event in the Davis Event Center at 7 p.m. Additional ceremonies were at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Sign up today ICC sets continuing education classes

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College has announced its schedule of continuing education classes for the 2025 fall semester.

The schedule, according to ICC Continuing Education director Josh Gammill, includes opportunities in several categories: hobbies and personal enjoyment, personal enrichment, professional continuing education, career pathways and senior college.

Gammill said that the class schedule includes both new opportunities as well as those that have been offered before. "We have integrated new classes such as introduction to artificial intelligence, introduction to content creation and Spanish for medical professionals that join old favorites in the areas of art, cake decorating, photography, ACT prep, sign language and personal finance.

Professional continuing education is available for EMS refreshers and engineers and surveyors as well as an extensive schedule of career pathways, or short-term courses, to prepare students for the next step. Our senior college, which began last year, continues to offer an opportunity to enable retirees to stay active in the community and engage with other participants who share the same enthusiasm and zest for life and learning as they do."

The schedule is available on ICC's website or can be accessed by <https://www.iccms.edu/ce>. It is updated at the end of each month with the addition of new classes and/or dates, Gammill said. "Those who have suggestions for classes or workshops may call (662) 407-1500 or email continuingeducation@iccms.edu.

What is ADHD? From page two

This explains why they may report feeling "prickly" or as if they are about to "jump out of (their) skin," and need to fidget and move their body!

This is why nontraditional seating such as a balancing ball may be helpful in the classroom. they may have an aversion to certain textures and tastes and may be extremely picky, eating only a few foods over and over, because they are considered supertasters." So, when your friend with ADHD says that vegetables taste bitter, bananas cause their mouth to tingle and mashed potatoes initiate their gag reflex, they aren't "just being dramatic!" It's more likely that they would rather not have the extra attention that those traits cause.

Additionally, those with ADHD may be labeled as "lazy" or "dumb." They experience difficulty focusing on tasks and engaging in activities that require focus and organization such as cleaning or writing lengthy papers. These challenges result in

procrastination, missing or late assignments and reading comprehensive problems.

These features may cause them to feel like a mortal failure and even spiral into depression and anxiety. You may ask, "but how can they spend hours on end gaming?" This is because activities with immediate rewards built in, such as gaming, satisfy their brain's need for dopamine, known as the reward chemical.

So, how can we support a person with ADHD and how can they support themselves? With the understanding that ADHD is an internal problem (self-regulation), an individual needs to control what is external (environment). Scheduling is a MUST! Do not wait until you "feel like it." Motivation is a challenge due to dopamine deficiency found in those with ADHD. Therefore, maintaining a schedule and working within a positive reward system is critical for productivity. Making lists, checking off tasks and working

in small, automatic rewards when a task is completed can be helpful.

Finally, knowledge is power. Understanding a few key elements of this common disorder can result in significant gains for a person troubled by the challenges of ADHD, whether you are struggling or support someone who is.

You can educate yourself by viewing Dr. Barkley's YouTube videos and lectures which are easily accessed on any connective device.

Additionally, many publications on ADHD can be checked out from ICC's Library through the Hoopla app. One such title that may be particularly helpful is "The Adult ADHD and Anxiety Workbook" by Dr. J. Russell Ramsey, New Harbinger Publications.

If you have questions or would like to talk to someone more about the symptoms and management of ADHD, email personalcounseling@iccms.edu.

#thebeststarthere



67 student-athletes earn NJCAA All-Academic honors

Staff Reports

Sixty-seven Itawamba Community College student-athletes have been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic Teas for the 2024-25 academic year.

To earn NJCAA All-Academic honors, students must have a grade point average of 3.60 or higher and completed 24 credit hours. There are three levels of academic honors: First Team, 4.0 GPA; Second Team, 3.80-3.99 GPA; and Third Team, 3.60-3.79 GPA.

The First Team includes 17 student-athletes; 22, Second Team; and 28, Third Team.

The NJCAA All-Academic Team honorees by sport include:

- Baseball** - Stone Collier (Fulton);
Men's Soccer - Leander Breidenbruecker (Bizau, Austria), Frank Rodriguez (Fulton), Braden Walters (Caledonia);
Women's Soccer - Vanessa Baugatz (Berlin, Germany), Gracie Henley (Pontotoc), Annabelle Holnan

- (Amory);
Softball - Lauren Brown (Caledonia), Taylar Shands (Jackson, Tenn.);
Men's Tennis - Sawyer Ritchie (Pontotoc), Knox Waterer (Belden);
Women's Tennis - Caitlyn Ard (Pontotoc), Rayssa Domingues (Bebedouro, Brazil) and Ainsley Robinson (Guntown);
Volleyball - McLaine Dorr (Gluckstadt), Lexi Pendleton (Germantown, Tenn.), Kaydee Vaughn (Florence, Ala.);
The Second Team honorees are:
Baseball - Jud Files (Mooreville), Jarrett Morris (Nesbit), Nathan Reed (Arlington, Tenn.), Dixon Webb (Oxford), Noah Wilder (Millington, Tenn.), Andrew Williams (Corinth), Aidan Williams (Sardis);
Football - Nick Sherman (Tuscaloosa, Ala.);
Men's Soccer - William Blake (Fulton), Oosvaldo Gonzalez (Olive Branch);
Women's Soccer - Chloe Boyd

- (Columbus), Maddie Davis (Stonewall), Bella Moore (Olive Branch), Addy Stanford (Tupelo);
Softball - Ella Duhon (Madison), Ella Lilly (Pontotoc), AB Marlar (Kosuth), Sadie Stegall* (Pontotoc);
Men's Tennis - Luca Hoffmann (Starkville), Ben Orr (Fulton);
Women's Tennis - Ava Logan (Fulton);
Volleyball - Michael Ann East (Oxford); Sadie Stegall* (Pontotoc);
The Third Team honorees include:
Baseball - Brayden Billingsley (Saint Amant, La.), Madden Butler (Corinth), Ty Wicker (Oxford), Luke Wood (Saltillo);
Women's Basketball - Alayna Ball (Pontotoc), Malasha Faulkner (Potts Camp), D'Naylah Williams (Kosciusko);
Football - Eli Burciaga (Corinth), Ty Davis (Fulton), Johnathan Morris (Starkville);
Men's Soccer - Luke Dearsley (Sydney, Australia), Jorge Favela (New

- Albany), Roy Gonzalez (Oxford), Micah King (Starkville), Brice Nunnery (Clinton), Blakely Timbes (Corinth), Vincent Walters (Hernando);
Women's Soccer - Liz McElveen (Olive Branch), Lauren Sharples (Liverpool, England);
Softball - Alyssa Clifft (Jackson, Tenn.), Zoe Goodman (New Hope), Houston-Rea Grantham (Flora), Laklyn Nichols (Mooreville), Maddie Porter (Ocean Springs);
Men's Tennis - Joan Mateu Ramis Pascual (Manacor, Spain);
Women's Tennis - Lucia Rubio (Valencia, Spain);
Volleyball - Bree Lyons (Oxford), Natalie Nix (Florence, Ala.).
*Played two sports
Additionally, eight of ICC's 11 athletic programs received NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honorable mention. The programs are baseball, women's basketball, men's soccer, women's soccer, softball, men's tennis, women's tennis and volleyball.

Eight ICC programs earn NJCAA recognition

Staff Reports

Each year, the National Junior College Athletic Association recognizes teams in each sport for their dedication and hard work in the classroom as NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year.
This year, eight ICC teams earned the honor for

their stellar academic performance during the 2024-25 athletic season.
They include
Baseball - 3.34;
Women's Basketball - 3.28;
Men's Soccer - 3.39;

Women's Soccer - 3.52;
Softball - 3.56;
Men's Tennis - 3.69;
Women's Tennis - 3.79 and
Volleyball - 3.48.

Adult education classes begin in district

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College is continuing to enroll adult basic education students in classes throughout its district.
Morning classes are taught at the ICC-Belden Center Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-noon, and afternoon classes, Mondays and Tuesdays from 4:30-8:30 p.m.
Those who are 16-17 years old cannot enroll in evening classes at the Belden Center unless they bring documentation from an employer that includes a schedule that conflicts with day classes, according to Audra Perry, director of Adult Education at ICC.
Additional classes for those 16-17 years of age are taught in Amory (Mondays and Thursdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Belden (Mondays through Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.), Fulton (Mondays and Tuesdays, 3:30-7:30 p.m.) and Pontotoc (Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.
There is no cost for the classes.
GED and HiSET testing is continuing on a weekly basis, and all program-enrolled students take the GED or HiSET free of charge. For more information on scheduling an appointment, contact Priscilla Trice at pbtrice@iccms.edu or call (662) 407-1513.
For general information about classes or programs, email adulateducation@iccms.edu or call (662) 407-1510 or (662) 407-1517.

Indian Week

Itawamba Community College students from all three locations celebrated the end of the spring 25 semester with Indian Week. Clockwise from top left, Belden, Tupelo and Fulton.



Pathways From page eight

The Pharmacy Technician program prepares students for an entry-level position in both institutional and pharmacy settings. Graduates are eligible to take the National Pharmacy Technician Certification examination.
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-Basic) is an instructional course

that prepares individuals to function in the prehospital environment. It provides instruction in basic life support care of sick and injured persons.
The Phlebotomy Technician program prepares students to obtain blood and other specimens for labora-

tory analysis. Participants who successfully complete the program will be eligible for employment as phlebotomy technicians in Mississippi hospitals, clinics, physician offices and other healthcare settings. Upon successful completion of classroom

work and clinicals, students are eligible to test for national certification as phlebotomy technicians.

For more information about all classes, including cost, or to register, call (662) 407-1537 or email pathways@iccms.edu.

YOU BELONG HERE!



ICC Athletics on the Move

CAMPUS SPORTS

CHIEFTAIN/Page 12.....August 4, 2025



Retiring ICC head baseball coach Rick Collier, right, visits with former head coach Roy Cresap during a reception in his honor recently. Below, Collier reconnects with former ICC Athletic Director Carrie Ball-Williamson.

ICC baseball Collier closes the book after 23 seasons at the helm

Staff Reports

For 23 seasons, Rick Collier was the quiet architect behind one of the most respected programs in junior college baseball. He never chased the spotlight. He wasn't one for grand gestures or victory laps. But now, with 704 wins etched into the record books, Collier is stepping away. Not with a roar, but with the steady grace that defined his entire career.

FULL OF POTENTIAL

When Collier took over in 2002, ICC was full of potential but short on milestones. By 2003, they were MACJC and Region 23 champions with a fifth-place finish at the NJCAA World Series. That team won 46 games and reeled off 22-straight victories. It was such a moment in Mississippi baseball history that Governor Ronnie Musgrove officially declared June 25 "ICC Indians Baseball Day."

But that was only the beginning.

BUILDING A POWERHOUSE

Over the next two decades, Collier built ICC into a perennial powerhouse. The Indians captured eight MACJC North Division titles before league realignment and made the postseason a near-annual expectation. Only five times in



23 seasons did ICC miss the playoffs. His teams were known for their grit, their discipline and refusal to be out-worked.

In 2009, the Indians tore through the state tournament, scoring 47 runs in three games. Collier was named MACJC Coach of the Year once again. He first earned that honor in 2003 and claimed it a third time in 2019. In 2016, he passed Roy Cresap to become the winningest coach in ICC history. Two years later, his squad reached No. 2 in the national rankings. In 2024, he picked up career win No. 700 in a victory over

Hinds. For Collier, it was just another day at the ballpark.

MORE THAN WINNING

But Collier's greatest victories didn't always show up in the box score. They showed up in the way his players carried themselves. In how they competed. In how they treated each other. And in how they came back, sometimes years later, to shake his hand and say thank you.

More than 20 of his players were drafted. Tim Dillard and Desmond Jennings made it all the way to the majors. Others signed free agent deals and chased their dream across backfields and bus rides. But

for every big-leaguer, there were dozens of former players who walked into his office years later and told him he made a difference.

That's what mattered most.

BEFORE HE WAS COACH

Before he was "Coach," Collier was a player. And a good one. He earned All-State honors at ICC in 1988 and 1989., then made a name for himself at Delta State. He hit .383 in 1990 and .416 in 1991. His .401 career average still ranks second in program history. He led the team in hits and RBI both seasons and was named team MVP in 1991. That same year, he was an All-Gulf South Con-

ference selection, an All-Region pick and a First-Team NCAA All-American. Eventually, he earned a place in the Delta State Sports Hall of Fame.

He knew what it took to play the game at a high level, and he spent more than 20 years passing that knowledge along.

Now, the man who built ICC baseball into a standard of excellence is calling it a career.

There was no farewell tour. No need for a grand send-off. Just a quiet walk out of the dugout, the same way he entered, with purpose and pride. The wins will be remembered. The championships will remain. But more than anything, the culture he created will carry on.

EARNING HIS WALKOFF

Every time an ICC player runs out a ground ball, lifts up a teammate or wears the jersey with pride, they carry a part of Rick Collier's legacy with them.

He wasn't just a coach. He was the foundation. The steady hand that never let the program lose its way.

And now, after 23 unforgettable seasons, he's earned his walk-off.

#RollTribe



From
the Sideline

Jordan Robbins
2014 Sports Editor

Character
vital in sports

Today many have called for college athletics to be competitive matches that require athletes to play with a “win no matter what” attitude.

Unfortunately, sometimes this passion to win changes an athlete’s character. In order to understand why character matters in college sports, you have to look at its definition and why college coaches want their athletes to show strong character.

This season at ICC, the men’s basketball team showed this great attribute on the court each game. Driving through the season in the lane for success, the team consistently played with true heart all the way to the final championship game.

These players are indeed tremendous athletes, but what they showed following the game was true character. I met the team in early August, and even though they had all just met, they seemed already to be a true family. And later, each time I’d see them on campus, the message was clear: they were ‘staying hungry’ for that championship.

Following the championship game, each player had an opportunity to cut a piece of the net, and what some might have overlooked, I thought exemplified the word character. As the players took turns climbing the ladder and cutting one piece at a time, one of the previously injured players walked toward the ladder, and immediately his teammates lifted him up so that he would have an opportunity to cut his part of the net.

Seeing that among teammates at ICC shows that our athletic programs teach true character and integrity from the locker room to the court, field, pitch, etc.

Athletic ability might seem to be what drove this team to a championship, but in reality, it was their ability to play as a true team that brought them such success.

I can honestly say I will never forget that game, and it will always be a great memory from my freshman year...being able to say that those athletes, my friends, won that championship...and they did it with character, heart and determination. - **Reprinted from the March 24, 2014 Chieftain.**

For the
most up-to-date
schedules,
LetsGoICC.com

ICC hires Slater Lott as new baseball coach

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College has announced the hiring of Slater Lott as the new head coach of the Indians baseball program.

Lott, widely regarded as one of the premier offensive minds and recruiters in junior college baseball, succeeds longtime head coach Rick Collier, who retired following a decorated 23-year career that included more than 700 wins and a lasting legacy at ICC.

Lott arrives in Fulton after a highly successful five-year stint at Pearl River Community College, where he helped lead the Wildcats to national prominence. His offensive philosophy produced some of the most potent lineups in NCAA baseball, including a 2022 team that captured the NJCAA Division II National Championship and a 2025 squad that finished as national runner-up.

Under Lott’s guidance, Pearl River was a consistent offensive powerhouse. His teams posted eye-popping numbers, including a .336 batting average in 2022, 519 runs scored and 85 home runs. In 2024, Pearl River ranked among the top 25 nationally in several categories, including third in home runs (85), third in extra-



Slater Lott

base hits (229) and sixth in slugging percentage (.569). Lott also coached standout players such as NJCAA Division II Player of the Year Tate Parker and MACCC Player of the Year Hollis Porter.

Lott’s success extended beyond the stat sheet. From 2022 to 2025, he helped recruit Perfect Game’s top-ranked classes four years in a row. His efforts were recognized in 2022, when he was named NJCAA Division II Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association. During his time at PRCC, he coached over 10 All-Americans, three Gold Glove recipients and a host of conference

award winners.

Before joining Pearl River, Lott served as the hitting coach at Delta State University where he helped lead the Statesmen to the 2019 Gulf South Conference Tournament title and an NCAA DII South Regional championship. While at DSU, his team tied a program record with a .967 fielding percentage. Lott began his coaching career at Meridian Community College, where he helped guide the Eagles to a national-best .368 team batting average in 2018.

A Mississippi native, Lott is a graduate of Clarksdale High School and earned degrees from Meridian Community College, Mississippi State University and Delta State University. He and his wife, Melissa, were married in 2018.

Lott takes over an ICC program with deep tradition, outstanding facilities and a strong support system. As he begins this new chapter, Lott is focused on building on the legacy of the program while pushing the Indians to compete at the highest levels in the MACCC and beyond. - **Photo courtesy of Pearl River Community College.**

108 ICC student-athletes earn MACCC Academic Honors

Staff Reports

The Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference has recognized 108 student-athletes from Itawamba Community College as academic honors recipients for the 2024-25 school year.

The MACCC awards two separate academic honors, Distinguished Academic All-MACCC and Academic All-MACCC. To earn Distinguished Academic All-MACCC, a student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.80 or higher, and to earn Academic All-MACCC, a GPA of 3.25-3.79.

ICC honorees included 42 student-athletes selected as Distinguished Academic All-MACCC; and 66, Academic All-MACCC.

The Distinguished Academic All-MACCC honorees by sport include:

Baseball - Stone Collier, Jud Files, Jarrett Morris, Nathan Reed, Dixon Webb, Aidan Williams, Andrew Williams, Noah Wilder;

Football - Dylan Rowsey, Nick Sherman;

Men’s Soccer - Leander Breidenbruecher, William Blake, Osvaldo Gonzalez, Alfredo Guerra, Frank Rodriguez, Braden Walters;

Women’s Soccer - Vanessa Baugatz, Chloe Boyd, Maddie Davis, Gracie Henley, Annabelle Holman, Bella Moore, Addy Stanford;

Softball - Lauren Brown, Ella Duhon, Ella Lilly, Anabelle Marlar, Taylar Shands, Sadie Stegall*;

Men’s Tennis - Ben Orr, Luca Hoffman, Sawyer Ritchie, Knox Waterer;

Women’s Tennis - Caitlyn Ard, Rayssa Domingues, Ava Logan, Ainsley Robison;

Volleyball - Michael Ann East, McLaine Dorr, Lexi Pendleton, Sadie Stegall*, Kaydee Vaughn, Kensley Woolbright;

The Academic All-MACCC honorees by sport include:

Baseball - Brayden Billingsley, Madden Butler, Nathan Ferris, Houston Green, Hunter Hutchens, Bryson Jackson, Noah Robinson, Everett Thompson, Ty Wicker, Luke Wood, Tyler Yearwood;

Women’s Basketball - Alayna Ball, Madison Dabbs, Malasha Faulkner, Tootie Lockett, Leanna Silas, D’Naylah Williams, I’Xana Winters;

Football - Mykel Allen, Eli

Burciaga, Ty Davis, Zae Dilworth, Jeremiah Harris, Jordan Johnson, Kaleb McAllister, JD Methvin, Jonathan Morris;

Golf - Elliott Overton, Cooper Williamson;

Men’s Soccer - Luke Dearsley, Jorge Favela, Hector Marcial, Roy Gonzalez, Elijah Belk, Micah King, Brice Nunery, Blakely Timbes, Vincent Walters;

Women’s Soccer - Mattie Ahmed, Katelyn El-Beck, Liz McElveen, Julianna Motes, Kylee King, Liv Norris, Cooper Pletzke, Lauren Sharples, Riley Stringer, Ana Marie Teal*, Suzi Page Vaughn;

Softball - Alyssa Clifft, Zoe Goodman, Houston-Rea Grantham, Morgan Green, Maddie McClendon, Joryie McKnight, Laklyn Nichols, Maddie Porter, Kamdyn Taylor, Ana Marie Teal*;

Men’s Tennis - Joan Mateu Ramis Pascual;

Women’s Tennis - Addi Joshlin, Lucia Rubio, Presley Thomas; and

Volleyball - Kylie Graham, Bree Lyons, Madasen McCaig and Natalie Nix.

*Played two sports

Itawamba Community College Sports...

ON THE
SCHEDULE

MEN’S SOCCER

8.9	Tupelo Futbol	TBA
8.12	Freed-Hardeman	3 p.m.
8.15	East Central	3 p.m.
8.23	NE Ala.	1 p.m.
8.26	Southern Union St.	3 p.m.
8.29	@Oxford Coll.	2 p.m.
9.4	@Pat./Henry	6 p.m.
9.6	@Pellissippi State	3 p.m.
9.9	@Wallace St.	3 p.m.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

8.9	Freed-Hardeman	2 p.m.
8.14	Bethel University	4 p.m.
8.19	@Christian Bros.	TBA
8.24	Pellissippi State	1 p.m.
8.28	@St. Louis	2 p.m.
8.30	@Jefferson Col.	Noon
9.3	SW Tenn.	3 p.m.
9.6	@So. Union St.	3 p.m.
9.9	@Dyersburg St.	4 p.m.

FOOTBALL

8.28	Hinds	7 p.m.
9.4	@Pearl River	7 p.m.
9.11	@East Central	6:30 p.m.
9.18	East MS	7 p.m.
9.25	@Miss. Delta	7 p.m.
10.9	Coahoma (HC)	7 p.m.
10.16	@Holmes	6:30 p.m.
10.23	Northeast	7 p.m.
10.30	@Northeast	7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

8.22	NW Shoals	9 a.m.
8.22	Pellissippi St.	3 p.m.
8.23	Calhoun	9 a.m.
8.23	Bevill State	3 p.m.
8.28	@Dyersburg St.	5 p.m.
9.3	Northwest	6 p.m.
9.8	@Southwest	5 p.m.
9.10	MGCCC	5 p.m.

Follow ICC athletics...LetsGoICC.com
or on Twitter...@LetsGoICC



ICC announces 2025 volleyball schedule

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College volleyball has announced its 2025 schedule, highlighted by 12 regular-season home matches at the Davis Event Center.

The season opens with four home games in two days, beginning Aug. 22, when ICC hosts Northwest-Shoals and Pellissippi State. The action continues on Saturday with matches against Calhoun and Beville State.

The home schedule includes seven conference games that will shape the MACCC standings and postseason

seeding. The conference home opener is set for Sept. 3 against Northwest. Other home dates include Gulf Coast (Sept. 10), Pearl River (Sept. 17), East Central (Sept. 24), Northeast (Oct. 1), Jones (Oct. 8), Southwest (Oct. 15) and Meridian (Oct. 22).

The final regular season home match will be Sophomore Day, Oct. 27 against Dyersburg State.

In addition to the home slate, the Indians will travel for several key conference road matchups. ICC will play at Southwest Mississippi (Sept. 8), Meridian (Sept. 12), Jones *Sept. 15),

Northeast (Sept. 22), East Central (Sept. 29), Pearl River (Oct. 6), Gulf Coast (Oct. 13), Northwest (Oct. 20), East Central, Jones College, Northeast Mississippi and Southwest Mississippi (Sept. 8). These matches are expected to play a big role in postseason positioning.

ICC was recently named the MACCC Volleyball Academic Team of the Year, an honor that reflects the program's emphasis on performance both on the court and in the classroom.

The Indians will also compete in

multiple tournaments during the regular season, including stops at Wallace State, Bishop State and Northwest-Shoals. These tournaments will provide important opportunities to test the team's depth and prepare for the postseason.

The NJCAA Region 23 Tournament begins Oct. 29, and the champion will advance to a national play-in match on Nov. 8 for a spot in the NJCAA National Tournament.

For a full schedule and updates throughout the season, visit Lets-GoICC.com.

DoD Summer Internship From page one

According to Bradley Howard, ICC's Computer Science division chair and STEM cosponsor, the federal government's plan highlighted the importance of work-based learning opportunities alongside the academic setting in a student's professional development and career readiness.

Both Davis and McMillen were active members of ICC's STEM Club, and Davis was one of four students who researched and prepared narration for its new planetarium recently. "This internship will be a shining achievement that employers will be able to recognize and appreciate," said Davis, who was an aviation management major at ICC. "It will put me on a fast track to achieving my career ambitions." She plans to transfer to Delta State University to

earn her degree in commercial aviation.

McMillen, too, is appreciative. "this internship is a wonderful opportunity to further my education, achieve my professional aspirations and cultivate my soft skills., such as adaptability, analytical thinking and collaboration. A career in cybersecurity requires education in cyber defense and operations. The Department of Defense SPICE internship will assist me in obtaining and improving the skills needed for a career in cybersecurity." She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity and minor in data science.

Davis and McMillen are two of 14 students chosen nationally from both community colleges and universities to participate in this

impressive internship. This is the first year that the opportunity was opened to community college students.

The intent of the SPICE internship is to incorporate interns into the world of joint experimentation methodologies and technology assessment techniques used to gather necessary information for innovative prototypes as well as help build a trilateral relationship between government, industry and academia across the United States.

According to information about the internship, "STEM talent development is of critical importance to the country's national security. The first cohort of SPICE was launched in June 2024, providing a work-based learning opportunity for STEM students. Its goals include providing interns with a unique

opportunity to assess novel technologies, introduce them to the Prototyping and Experimentation enterprise and familiarize them with the critical intersection of government, industry and academia that enables the innovation of joint warfighting capabilities."

Since its inception, the program has evolved to align with the Federal Strategic Plan for Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating STEM Talent. Upon completion of the current cohort in August, approximately 30 students from 10 academic institutions across six states have been provided with the unique experience of this internship. Graduates of the program come from a diverse range of educational, professional and life experiences which have significantly contributed to the

learning environment.

The kickoff in Indianapolis involved allowing the interns to adjust to working with the DoD," said Heather McCormick, STEM cosponsor and Mathematics division chair, attended. It included a private tour of AJ Foyt Racing, a tour of Dallara USA with virtual racing, a meal in a private suite on the Indy 500 raceway and the opening T-REX Mid-Planning Conference meeting where students sat in on strategic engagements with industries and DoD leaders as they planned for testing technologies this summer at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The program is hosted by the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prototyping & Experimentation with applicants invited by the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense

getinvolved@iccms.edu